

From the President...

I want to take this opportunity to thank you, our members and our staff, for your ceaseless commitment to recycling throughout the Commonwealth.

Unfortunately we cannot be secure with our success, as many daunting issues remain outstanding.

We will all be called to a higher level of service in 2005 and for the future.

You will be asked to redouble your efforts to meet, discuss, and lobby legislators and senators on key legislation vital to our organization's growth and survival.

The attached annual report details the numerous successful programs and projects undertaken in 2004 by our organization.

Please join us in our endeavors as we strive to keep PROP the number one recycling organization in the United States.

Yours Truly,



Chuck Raudenbush,
President



From the Executive Director...

Like recycling at the national level, PROP and Pennsylvania have accomplished a great deal, yet much remains to be done. Though we could talk for a long time about the list of things yet to be done, permit me the liberty of reflecting on the accomplishments of the past year.

- **Recycling Organization of the Year** - The National Recycling Coalition (NRC) recognized PROP as the Recycling Organization of the Year at last year's conference in San Francisco. With so many other extraordinary organizations in the NRC, such recognition was especially gratifying.

- **Government Relations** - Though not always the most visible of the things we do, our communication with the legislature and state agencies can be our most important work. In addition to continuing our exceptional cooperative efforts with the Department of Environmental Protection, the organization has been active on the legislative front as well.



PROP retained the services of a professional lobbying firm, Pugliese Associates, to further enhance our legislative outreach efforts. In their brief time with us, the firm has already raised our visibility in the legislature. Reauthorization of the Recycling Fee is moving forward and concerns over using the fee to pay debt service on the Growing Greener II bond seems to have been addressed.

- **Membership** - Our membership continues to grow slowly but steadily. The great news is the growth of our upper level members. We now have nearly twenty firms that have joined the organization at the sponsoring or corporate level.

- **Financial** - PROP's financial situation remains healthy and stable, thanks to both a hard working staff and an active board, especially our Finance and Fundraising Chair, Joanne Shafer. A new staff incentive program and financial management system enhancements have helped to diversify our revenues and streamline our administrative operations.

- **Staff Development** - As the organization grows, we think it's important that our staff grows in ability and expertise as well. In addition to a productive staff retreat last summer and several excellent conferences, I had the opportunity to attend the Institute for Conservation Leadership's Executive Directors' training workshop near Minneapolis, MN this past winter.

- **PROP Strategic Planning** - As a growing membership organization, we also saw the need to undertake a formal strategic planning process and embarked on that effort last fall.

Those are just some of the highlights. I hope you'll take the time to look through the rest of our annual report and read about the details of a productive and rewarding year. Most importantly, I hope our report will encourage you to become more active or to provide additional support to the organization. Our continued growth and the ultimate success of recycling in Pennsylvania can only happen with an empowered and engaged membership. I hope you can continue to provide the energy to keep the recycling wheel turning.

Enthusiastically yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Frederick". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

John Frederick
Executive Director

Major Organizational Projects and Programs

PROP Named National Recycling Organization of The Year by NRC

PROP was honored as the National Recycling Coalition's (NRC's) 2004 Outstanding Recycling Organization of the Year. In the inaugural year of the award, NRC commended PROP for the full slate of services we provide to our members, including the certification program, the magazine and our legislative advocacy work. Executive Director John Frederick and Treasurer Joanne Shafer received the award at NRC's annual conference in San Francisco, California.



John Frederick and Joanne Shafer accept the Outstanding Recycling Organization of the Year award at the NRC conference.

Legislative Advocacy Continues to be Top Priority for PROP

The Government Liaison Committee, the board of directors and PROP's staff continued our legislative advocacy work. A successful Legislative Day was held in May. PROP members visited over five dozen legislators and their staff members and explained the importance of continued funding for recycling programs in Pennsylvania. A lunch bag made from recycled PET bottles and filled with recycling-themed snacks from across the Commonwealth was delivered to each legislator.

The board augmented the organization's legislative work with the hiring of a professional lobbyist. Harrisburg-based Pugliese Associates was retained to assist with making connections with key legislators and to keep the organization aware of important legislative maneuvering. PROP's lobbyist proved to be key as we successfully mobilized our membership and voiced our opposition to the Rendell administration's proposal to use the Recycling Fee for the Growing Greener II program. Using our Capwiz legislative website, our members sent nearly 300 messages to the governor and their local legislators.

The *Pennsylvania Recycler* played an important role in PROP's legislative work this year. The winter issue focused on the state of the recycling fund and included a look at how a continued loss of funding would impact county, municipal, educational and private sector recycling programs. The issue was mailed to every member of the legislature with a chart showing the decline of the Recycling Fund over the last four years.



Forest Lands Beautification Program Comes to a Close

The Forest Lands Beautification Program came to a close after five successful years of abating illegal dumping in Pennsylvania's state forests and state parks. In the final phase of the program, PROP completed two recycling pilot projects in Keystone State Park and Presque Isle State Park. Both projects provided education pieces and containers to augment the parks' existing recycling programs. We hope that these projects will demonstrate that recycling can be economical and efficient in the state parks.

PROP also completed a municipal survey during the final phase of the project. Using the list of municipalities eligible for free technical assistance, PROP's summer intern attempted to contact over 130 communities to determine their knowledge of illegal dumping and open burning issues, as well as the trash and recycling services currently being offered. The survey concluded that municipal information is hard to find and that most municipalities are doing very little with their solid waste and recycling programs. Half of the respondents reported a concern about illegal dumping in their communities. Seventy-five percent of the respondents have individual trash collection in their communities. The findings from this survey were used to develop recommendations for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) to better address illegal dumping issues in the future.



Attendees at the Data Management Workshop attempt to solve a data collection problem.

Professional Certification Program Debuts Online Course, Continues Growth

The Professional Certification Program hit a milestone in 2004 when it graduated its 100th certified recycling professional. The program now boasts a total of 103 certified recycling professionals and 22 senior certified recycling professionals. The certification program continued to add new courses to address emerging issues in the recycling and organics fields. New courses tackled topics including organics collection, erosion and sedimentation control and recycling economics II, which will focus on global markets and local niche markets. A new specialization in marketing was also added. This is the sixth specialization to be offered through the program.

The certification program expanded into cyberspace with its first-ever online course - Collection Techniques and Options. An adaptation of a course previously offered through the program, the class drew over 20 students from across Pennsylvania. A second online course will debut in fall 2005.

Waste Watcher Program Revamped for 2004

The Waste Watcher program was redesigned in 2004. Now a partnership of PROP, the Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association (PWIA) and the Keystone Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA), the program honored 51 outstanding recycling and composting programs. Rather than host one large ceremony, awards were distributed at local events across the state by PROP, PWIA and SWANA members. The local recognition ceremonies provided greater press coverage for each winner and a chance for representatives from the three organizations to connect with each winner.

PROP Continues Partnership with Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful

PROP continued our work with Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, Pennsylvania's affiliate to Keep America Beautiful. In 2004, we participated in the first-ever litter summit. The litter summit was designed as a gathering of officials from across the state who are concerned about littering issues. As chair of the law and enforcement committee, PROP led a panel discussion on enforcement practices across the state.



Members of the Organics Council tour Lycoming County's facility.

Education Committee Provides Outreach Through Focus on Series Events

Under the leadership of Brenda Schmidt, the Education Committee held three Focus on Series events. The idea behind the Focus on Series seminars is to provide in-depth information on topics of concern to recycling coordinators and environmental educators. Topics covered this year included an explanation of Pennsylvania's new education standards with Patti Vathis from the Department of Education, a sharing of educational programs and ideas and a discussion of how to reach special audiences. More Focus on Series events are currently being planned.

Organics Council Welcomes New Chair, Publishes Specialty Newsletter

The Organics Council bid a fond farewell to former chair Nadine Davitt. Tim Bollinger recently assumed the leadership of the council of interested organics recycling professionals. In addition to holding quarterly meetings to discuss timely topics and tour innovative processes, the council recently published its first newsletter. *The*

Rottin' News is a periodic publication that is intended to keep Organics Council members up to date on industry news and events.

Organics Council members were also very involved in planning the third annual Manufactured Soils Conference. Held in State College, the conference focused on the tools needed to handle, produce and market compost and other recycled residuals. The conference attracted over 100 attendees and 15 vendors.

College and University Committee Completes Online Survey, Holds Waste Auditing Workshop

College and university recycling coordinators were recently sent an email asking for their participation in a special online survey aimed at helping PROP create programming to meet their needs. The brain child of Committee Chair Ric Laudenslager, the survey is a step toward growing a more engaged and active committee. With the help of the data management committee, the committee also planned a special college and university waste auditing workshop during the 2005 conference. The workshop will be held on the campus of Penn State University.

2004 Conference Attracts National Speakers, Addresses Critical Issues

PROP's 2004 conference, held in Wilkes-Barre, attracted over 200 recycling professionals. For the first time, the conference featured specific tracks geared toward organics professionals, municipal officials and recycling coordinators. Conference highlights included a panel discussion on recycling funding issues and a presentation by a nationally-known expert on community event recycling.



NRC Executive Director Kate Krebs spoke at the 2004 Conference in Wilkes Barre.

The 2005 conference, PROP's 15th annual, will be held in State College. The conference will highlight the many recycling and composting operations in the Centre region through a series of tours. Conference sessions will focus on education, organics collection, innovative programs and marketing issues.

Pennsylvania Recycler Is A Hit With the Recycling Community

The Media Committee, under the direction of Lori Robson, worked hard to make the *Pennsylvania Recycler* the publication to read for the latest recycling news. In 2004, magazine articles focused on recycling sustainability, municipal challenges, disaster relief, the state of the recycling fund, environmentally preferable purchases and quality issues that affect organics collection. The committee always welcomes article suggestions.

2004 Data Management Workshop Focuses on Challenges Facing Data Collection

Led by Committee Chair Sharon Svitek, the data management committee used its annual workshop to explore data collection challenges. Commercial recyclers were present to discuss their challenges with data collection. A special primer for new recycling coordinators was also held the night before the workshop. The committee is busy planning the 2005 Data Management Workshop. The session will include speakers from businesses that use recyclables collected from Pennsylvania programs.

Markets Committee Plans Plastics Summit, Submits First Year Suggestions for Markets Center

The Markets Committee, under the direction of chair Peter Previte, has been busy planning the first plastics summit and several markets-related certification courses. Committee members also recently sent a letter to the board of the new Recycling Markets Center identifying PROP's suggestions for the center's first year priorities.

Municipal Committee Studies 100 Most Populous Municipal Recycling Programs

In order to find out what makes a recycling program successful, the members of the Municipal Committee conducted a study of the 100 most populous curbside municipal recycling programs in the Commonwealth. Committee members conducted interviews with the communities listed in the top 50 and created an article for the magazine that examines topics from enforcement and education to funding and residential support. The Municipal Committee also planned the upcoming Anti-Littering and Enforcement course. Julie Burt recently replaced Barb Baker as the chair of the committee.

Committee Chairs

By-Laws

Chair: Ann Saurman
(610) 437-8729
saurman@allentowncity.org

College and University

Chair: Ric Laudenslager
(610) 519-4466
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Conference Committee - 2005

Chair: Joanne Shafer
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Data Management/Waste Audit

Chair: Sharon Svitek
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Education

Chair: Brenda Schmidt
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Executive/Personnel

Chair: Chuck Raudenbush
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Finance and Fundraising

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Government Liaison

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Markets

Chair: Peter Previte
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Membership

Chair: Amy Mazzella di Bosco
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Media

Chair: Lori Robson
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Municipal

Chair: Julie Burt
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NRC Recycling Organization Council

Chair: Joanne Shafer
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Nomination

Chair: Tanya McCoy-Caretti
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Organics Council

Chair: Tim Bollinger
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Professional Certification

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Universal Waste/HHW

Chair: Kurt Fenstermacher
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Committee activities
are listed on PROP's website,
www.proprecycles.org. For more
information or to join a
committee, please contact the
committee chair.

**Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania
FY 03/04 Audited Financial Statements
As of June 30, 2004**

Current Assets:

Cash	\$103,934
Accounts Receivable	145,157
Inventory	14,819
Prepaid Expenses	6,269
Office Equipment	<u>14,955</u>

Total Assets \$285,134

Liabilities:

Accounts Payable	\$ 1,751
Payroll Taxes Payable	1,060
Deferred Revenue	<u>73,518</u>

Total Liabilities **\$76,329**

Unrestricted Net Assets **\$208,805**

Total Liabilities and Net Assets \$285,134

Revenue:

Conference Registrations	\$105,869
Projects/Certification	571,607
Memberships	27,700
Other Revenue	6,899
Interest	<u>229</u>

Total Revenue \$712,304

Expenses:

Conference	\$73,971
Projects/Certification	338,938
Office Expenses	67,751
Wages/Benefits	215,868
Other Expenses	<u>16,829</u>

Total Expenses \$713,357

NET ASSETS \$208,805

Board of Directors

Officers:

Name	Affiliation	Office (Term)	Phone
Chuck Raudenbush	Waste Management	President (2005)	(215) 428-3207
Lori Robson	Northern Tier SWA	Vice President (2005)	(570) 297-4177
Joanne Shafer	Centre County SWA	Treasurer (2006)	(814) 238-7005
Amy Mazzella di Bosco	Greater Lebanon RA	Secretary (2006)	(717) 867-5790, ext. 307
Tanya McCoy-Caretti	Cambria County SWA	Committee (2005)	(814) 472-2109

Board Members:

Name	Affiliation	Region (Term)	Phone
Don Blakesley	Mercer County	Northwest (2006)	(724) 981-2412
Sandi Brown	West Chester University	Southeast (2006)	(610) 436-2512
Julie Burt	City of Lancaster	At-Large (2006)	(717) 291-4714
Michael Crist	Clinton County SWA	At-Large (2006)	(570) 769-7802
Walt Davenport	R.W. Beck	Private Sector (2006)	(301) 607-6428
Dean Delong	Monroe County	Northeast (2005)	(570) 643-6100
Kurt Fenstermacher	Lehigh County	Northeast (2006)	(610) 799-4177
Kris Howdyshell	Blair County	Southcentral (2005)	(814) 696-4620
Kathy Keller-Mielke	Erie County	Northwest (2005)	(814) 451-6019
Ric Laudenslager	Villanova University	Private Sector (2005)	(610) 519-4466
Peter Previte	Allegheny County	Southwest Region (2006)	(412) 578-8047
David Robinson	City of Philadelphia	Southeast Region (2005)	(215) 686-5504
Ann Saurman	City of Allentown	At-Large (2005)	(610) 437-8729
Rick Schlauder	Vquip USA	Private Sector (2006)	(717) 303-0400

**This list reflects the board of directors who served during 2004-2005. An up-to-date board list is available online at www.proprecycles.org.*



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and legislative updates.
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